

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for continuously producing polybutylene terephthalate by esterification of an aromatic dicarboxylic acid with a glycol and subsequent polycondensation of the esterification product obtained, comprising:
 - (a) continuously feeding said aromatic dicarboxylic acid and said glycol into a first esterification reactor as a first process stage;
 - (b) carrying out esterification during the first process stage at temperatures of 220°C to 250°C and at 33kPa to 150kPa;
 - (c) precondensing the esterification product from the first process stage during a second stage at temperatures of 230°C to 255°C and at 100kPa to 0.133kPa, to produce a precondensate;
 - (d) continuously polycondensing said precondensate at temperatures of 230°C to 255°C and at 0.665kPa to 0.067kPa;
 - (e) removing water and tetrahydrofuran from an output volatile component from said first esterification reactor to produce said glycol;
 - (f) condensing an output volatile component obtained in steps (c) and (d); and
 - (g) recycling to the first esterification reactor said glycol obtained in step (e) and condensed component obtained in step (f).
2. The process for continuously producing polybutylene terephthalate according to claim 1, wherein said aromatic dicarboxylic acid is terephthalic acid and said glycol is 1,4-butanediol.

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